

GOT contract? University officials hopeful for success of new program

Graduate on Time could elude to students saving time, money

By MICHAEL CARDELL
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech plans to help students graduate quicker and spend less money by offering a Graduate-on-Time contract to freshmen.

According to the Graduate-on-Time Web site, the contract is an agreement between the student and the university to take a full course load of 15 to 16 hours a semester and finish their degree within four to five years depending on the student's major.

Tech President Jon Whitmore said the contract puts pressure on the university's side to advise students correctly and help them graduate in a timely manner.

"The program is designed to help students graduate in four years, maybe four and a half maybe five, depending on their major," he said. "It's one of the methods for saving money. Students won't have to pay for an extra year of food, housing and tuition."

He said it is Tech's obligation to ensure it provides all the classes the students need in the right sequence and time, or offer an appropriate substitute.

Student Government Association President Nathan Nash said the average time it takes a student to graduate from Tech is five and a half years, according to a study done in Fall 2004.

He said freshmen students could sign the contract anytime up to pre-registering for their sophomore year.

"It is in all the students' best interests to sign the GOT contract," Nash said. "It doesn't hurt them in anyway because there is no penalty for breaking the contract."

He said if the administration is unable to offer a class, and the student has kept up their end of the agreement, Tech would do everything in its power to open the class needed.

However, Nash said, if the administration cannot produce the class, it will provide either a substitute class, an exemption or not charge the student institutional tuition or course fees for the extra time spent in school.

Nash said signing the contract is cost saving in the long run.

According to the Web site, the projected savings for

a student graduating in four years as compared to five and a half years is \$54,755, because of tuition costs and loss of wages for that time.

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Jim Brink said 20 percent of freshmen in 2004 signed the contract.

"It gives students a chance to get a couple of semesters under their belt and find out what they want to do," he said. However, the results are not in yet.

"The proof will be in the end result," Brink said. "We just won't know until we see whether or not the students who signed the contract graduate when they are supposed to."

Nash said there are policies in place to help student graduate on time that apply to all students, not just students who signed the contract.

He said students no longer could receive a withdrawal pass. Every student is allowed four withdrawals throughout their time at Tech, and once a student uses those four withdrawals, he no longer can drop a class past the add/drop date.

"I think it will make students commit to the classes they are taking," Nash said. "It will make them realize, 'This is the course I have to take, and I have to pass it this semester.'"

He said the withdrawal policy would make it so there are not as many empty class spots toward the end of the semester.

"When a student drops the class past the add/drop date, that seat can no longer be refilled by another student who needed to take the course, but couldn't because it was full," Nash said. "When everybody drops halfway through the year, it leaves empty seats and more people trying to take the course the following semester."

Nash said everything the administration is doing looks good to parents of prospective students and has helped recruiting.

"It looks good academically and will cost the parents and the students far less due to a quicker graduation," Nash said.

For information about the Graduate-on-Time contract, students can talk to their academic advisers.

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While you were out

Many events occurred both locally and around the nation while Texas Tech was on winter break. The Daily Toreador will continue to update these stories as more information becomes available.

Campus

Tech Professor Emeritus Richard "Chip" Peterson announced he would run for the 19th Congressional District as a Libertarian.

Tech Chancellor Dr. David Smith withdrew his name from the top three candidates for the chancellor of the University of Georgia System. See story Page 3.

City

A skull was found near Buffalo Springs Lake and was originally thought to be that of missing teen Joanna Rogers. When taken to the medical examiner, the body was determined to be that of a teenage male. See story Page 1.

Matt Powell was appointed Lubbock criminal district attorney and was sworn in by his predecessor District Judge Bill Sowder. Powell will face Tommy Turner in the Republican primary in March.

Lubbock's only strip club, Baby Dolls, lost an appeal to gain a permit to operate a sexually oriented business. The owner was given five days to shut down the sexually oriented part of the business, but will remain open as a bar that serves mixed drinks.

Former Patterson-UTI Chief Financial Officer Jonathan Nelson pleaded not guilty to fraud charges totaling more than \$70 million. He is accused of falsifying financial reports and committing wire fraud from the Snyder-based company. His wife has asked to keep \$4 million that her attorney claims are legitimate.

State

Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay announced he would not seek to return to his position after stepping down when he was indicted in Austin on criminal charges of conspiracy to violate eth-

ic laws. A Texas court denied DeLay's request to dismiss the charges. DeLay told media outlets this was not an admission of guilt and plans to run for re-election. Representatives Roy Blunt and John Boehner have put their names in the race to be DeLay's replacement.

Wildfires raged across Texas and Oklahoma, and statewide burn bans were put into effect. The fires claimed hundreds of thousands of acres and more than 100 homes statewide. Texas ended 2005 with a precipitation deficit between 15 and 20 inches in most areas. See related story Page 5.

State Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn entered the Texas gubernatorial race as an Independent instead of a Republican as she had previously stated. See related story Page 1.

National

An explosion in a West Virginia mine left 13 coal miners trapped for 41 hours, during which family members were misinformed that 12 of the 13 men were alive. It was later revealed that only one miner, Randal McCloy Jr., survived the explosion. McCloy's doctors said they are "guardedly optimistic" about his condition, but his full recovery still is in question.

Vice President Dick Cheney was hospitalized with shortness of breath early Monday morning. He was released shortly after doctors pinpointed the problem as a reaction to a foot medication Cheney was taking.

The Senate Judiciary Committee began confirmation hearings for Judge Samuel Alito Monday. If confirmed, Alito would replace swing-voter Sandra Day O'Connor, which prompted Democrats to threaten a filibuster.

The price of stamps went from 37 to 39 cents, bringing crowds around the nation out to buy the new 2-cent stamp to add on to their mail.

Former gang leader Stanley "Tookie" Williams was put to death Dec. 13 after California Gov. Arnold

Schwarzenegger denied him a last-minute clemency request. Williams was convicted of killing four people before his "redemption" when he began writing children's books and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dick Clark made his return to network TV with his legendary New Year's Rockin' Eve. He and co-host Ryan Seacrest counted down as the ball dropped over Times Square in New York City.

Congress extended the Patriot Act for one month.

New York transit workers went on a three-day strike, causing New Yorkers including Mayor Michael Bloomberg, to walk to work. The strike was deemed illegal.

Time magazine named Bill and Melinda Gates, and Bono as its Persons of the Year for the time, donations and charitable work they did during natural disasters in 2005.

International

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered what doctors referred to as a "massive stroke" on Jan. 4. Sharon was weaned off anesthesia and began breathing on his own Monday. He was scheduled to run for re-election in March, but doctors have reported to the media, Sharon's presence on the ballot is unlikely. Power was transferred from Sharon to his top deputy shortly after Sharon entered a Jerusalem hospital.

The roof of an ice skating rink collapsed in Germany killing 15 people.

The bird flu continued to spread across the world, as five more people were infected with the H5N1 virus in Turkey. That brings the number of confirmed human bird flu cases in Turkey to 15. The World Health Organization calculates the cumulative total of confirmed human cases of bird flu at 146 people since 2003.

Seventy-nine troops were killed in Iraq.

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Rhode Island becomes latest state to legalize medicinal marijuana

By DANIELLE NOVY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Winter may be far from over, but Rhode Island is already starting to see green; it recently became the 11th state to legalize medicinal marijuana.

The Ocean State's decision came about six months after the U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling that those who use the drug, even for medical purposes, still can be prosecuted under federal law.

Joining the ranks of California and Colorado, Rhode Island now allows marijuana to be both grown and used for medicinal purposes.

State law now allows patients being treated for illnesses such as AIDS and cancer to purchase up to 2.5 ounces or grow up to 12 plants of marijuana after registering with the state and gaining an identification card.

Paul Armentano, the senior policy analyst for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said Rhode Island's legalization of medicinal marijuana aligns with the wishes of the public.

"It is an indication that at least some states' politicians have caught up with the wills of voters," he said of the ruling.

Politics and the issue of health-care should be separated, Armentano said.

"Politics shouldn't play a role in healthcare," he said. "Yet, in this case they do. Unfortunately, because it is marijuana, it's held up to a different standard (than most other varieties of medicine)."

Armentano said despite the federal ruling that prohibits medicinal marijuana across the nation, state laws similar to those adapted by Rhode Island generally have proved to have a deep impact.

Armentano said state laws provided adequate protection to the patients using hemp as a form of treatment.

"Less than one percent of the annual arrests for possession of marijuana are done federally," he said. "Instead, they are often done locally."

Armentano said figures such as

this provided support for the notion that the new state law would have an effect upon the Rhode Island citizens.

Despite the ruling, doctors are still not permitted to legally prescribe marijuana as a treatment under federal law. In 2002, one Oregon doctor had his license suspended after approving half of the state's medicinal marijuana applications. The suspension came about three years after medical marijuana was legalized in the state.

With the spotlight now secured on a new horizon of reform, Armentano said other states have been emerging into various stages of the marijuana debate.

"New Jersey, Michigan and New Mexico have bills pending," he said.

As for Texas, Armentano said the Lone Star State would likely ponder the issue in coming years.

"Texas had a bill that was considered last year," he said. "It hasn't had a lot of success in moving the issue."

My assumption is that the bill will be reintroduced and be a subject of debate for the Texas Legislature."

Armentano said he suspected 2007 might prove to be a pivotal year for multiple states to address the issue.

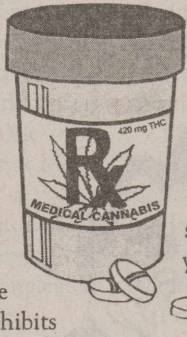
Nikki Hannemann, a sophomore art history major from Hondo, said she does not believe Texas will follow in Rhode Island's footsteps any time soon.

"For it to be legalized in Texas, there is going to have to be a huge ideological shift because Texas is pretty conservative," she said.

In terms of Rhode Island, Hannemann said she has no problem with the state legalizing medicinal marijuana because she believes the legislators who pushed the bill through must have had ample support and reasoning to backup their decision.

For more information about the effort to reform marijuana laws across the nation, visit National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law's Web site, www.norml.org.

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Remains

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

5 feet six inches to 5 feet 9 inches," Natarajan said. "His estimated weight, based a little on his height, ranged from 150 to 180 pounds."

The remains were discovered at the end of December, according to media reports. The Sheriff's Department immediately started an investigation.

Lubbock County Sheriff David Gutierrez said the department closed down the area for seven days to systematically search for any more clues.

After most of the remains were found, the Sheriff's Department delivered the remains to Natarajan for medical examination, according to media reports.

As far as how long it will take to identify the victim, Natarajan said there is no definite timeline, but hopes some answers will come in the immediate future.

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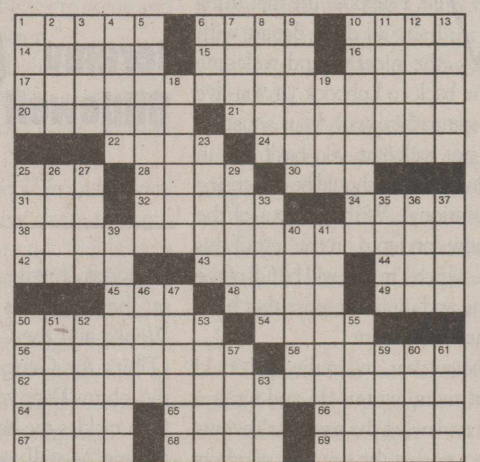
THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Put into office
- 6 Sail support
- 10 Decide not to swing
- 14 At this point
- 15 Amo, ___ ama.
- 16 Composer Khachaturian
- 17 SETI question
- 20 Closer
- 21 Put into financial difficulties
- 22 Fruit drinks
- 24 London district
- 25 Industrial container
- 28 Dressy event
- 30 Greek letter
- 31 Ratlike bird
- 32 Lord Byron's Muse
- 34 Spanish water
- 38 Just between us
- 42 Ohio s river
- 43 Actress Uta
- 44 Fisherman's profit?
- 45 Audit-takers letters
- 48 Senator Cochran of Mississippi
- 49 Sing-along syllable
- 50 Colony of social climbers?
- 54 Chicagoand paper
- 56 Address
- 58 Way out
- 62 I'm not the only one
- 64 South African grassland
- 65 Goller Aoki
- 66 Skirt
- 67 Building wings
- 68 Zaire's Mobutu Sese
- 69 Earthquake

DOWN

- 1 Israel's Abba
- 2 "Flashdance" director Adrian
- 3 "Book of Days" singer
- 4 Hooded reptile
- 5 Doubly dangerous
- 6 Jersey cape
- 7 Hebrew prophet
- 8 Fry briefly
- 9 Shoe style
- 10 Papeete man
- 11 Sharp-crested ridge
- 12 Black of "Five Easy Pieces"
- 13 Correct text
- 18 Dismal
- 19 Soviet news agency
- 23 Cut sharply
- 25 cava
- 26 Out of control
- 27 Hollow cylinder
- 29 Ready for the pitch
- 33 Relative of shoud
- 35 Chap
- 36 Explorer
- 37 Charles Barker
- 39 Apple groves
- 40 Burned a bit
- 41 Dark blues
- 46 Compassion
- 47 Excuses
- 50 Motin rival
- 51 Innovative
- 52 Immune system element
- 53 Untethered
- 55 Short-vowel symbol
- 57 Sask. neighbor
- 59 Actor Morales
- 60 Caesar and Vicious
- 61 Watch winder
- 63 Hoq leader?



By Victor Fleming Little Rock, AR 1/11/06

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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Only you can prevent forest fires

Officials give tips to keep Texas wildfires out of West Texas

By **ANDREW WOOD**
STAFF WRITER

Wildfires have damaged various parts of Texas, including West Texas when 1,200 to 1,500 acres burned in Abernathy Thursday afternoon. Local experts and officials continue to warn that another devastating fire can be next.

Dry weather, high wind speed and human judgment are some of the factors which have caused wildfires in various parts of the state. Carlos Gonzales, KLBK-TV chief meteorologist, said people need to be alert of fire at all times.

There already have been fires in the area, he said, and the lack of rain from recent months is a factor. The fires, which spread near Abilene and Dallas, happened in areas with more of a moist climate and higher humidity levels, which are not as subject to wildfire as areas with a drier climate.

The South Plains has not had much rain since October, Gonzales said, and higher wind speeds make the area more vulnerable to fire.

"So far, I think we've been lucky the fires haven't started," he said.

Some areas in Texas have been placed under a "red-flag warning" by the National Weather Service, which goes up when a 20-foot wind speed is

more than 25 mph and the humidity level is less than 15 percent, said Jerry English, National Weather Service hydrometeorological technician. There is a possibility for a red-flag warning for Thursday and Saturday.

Drought was a key factor in the wildfires spreading in the North Texas region, where the amount of rainfall was lower than the yearly average, said Larry Tanner, research associate for Wind Science and Engineering.

The Dallas area, which averages 40 inches of rain every year, has received nine inches of rain during the last nine months.

According to the www.wikipedia.org, a wildfire, located near Cross Plains destroyed 116 homes Dec. 27. Two people died as a result and 7,665 acres of land burned. The fire started five miles west of town before winds of up to 30 mph spread the fire into town.

Some counties in Texas have been placed under a burn ban, which is a zero tolerance policy for using fire outdoors, even if it is to cook outdoors or use fireworks.

While a dry and windy climate has put West Texas in danger of a wildfire, people cause most of the fires, said Mark Ethridge, public information officer for the Lubbock Fire Department.

"Nearly all of the grass and wild

land fires we have are caused by people and they are preventable," he said. "The best defense for people is to not let the fire start in the first place."

Ethridge said people should cut their grass and clear leaves close to their homes. Debris and woodpiles should be kept away from homes, and roofs and gutters should be free of leaves.

The Oklahoma State University Forestry Department also has listed some guidelines for dealing with fire, which include: have an outdoor water supply with a hose and a nozzle that can reach all parts of the house, keep fire extinguishers handy, set up a family evacuation plan and conduct regular fire drills. People should have at least two escape routes planned, according to the department.

The high wind speeds and dry weather is normal for this time of the year, Gonzales said, and a greater chance of rain will come later in the winter season.

He said people should be prepared at all times because they never know when a fire might begin to spread.

"It's not something people think about too often, but it can affect everyone with a drop of a hat," Gonzales said.

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Doctors say Sharon out of immediate danger as he recovers from stroke

JERUSALEM (AP) — Doctors reported progress Tuesday by Ariel Sharon, saying the Israeli leader moved his left hand and appeared to respond to his sons' voices in new signs of recovery from a massive stroke.

But while doctors said Sharon was no longer in immediate danger, they cautioned it would be days before they could determine the full extent of the damage he suffered from a brain hemorrhage and whether he has lost his ability to think and reason.

"I think compared with recent days... there are significant changes in the prime minister's condition. But we still have a long way to go, and we have to be patient," said

Dr. Yoram Weiss, one of Sharon's anesthesiologists.

Sharon suffered a massive stroke Jan. 4 and underwent three surgeries to stop hemorrhaging on the right side of his brain. He has been kept in a medically induced coma to give him time to recover.

Israelis were stunned at the illness of their 77-year-old leader and have intensely followed updates on his condition. Some made pilgrimages to Hadassah Hospital, gathering outside to pray, hanging up posters of support and offering letters of well wishes, many written by children.

Israeli police said crime in the country had fallen 50 percent since Sharon's stroke. "It's hard to explain, but since the prime minister became ill

there seems to have been a change in people's behavior patterns, their way of thinking," police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld said.

In his first public statement since his father's stroke, Sharon's son Omri said the family was grateful for the outpouring of support.

"I came to thank, in the name of my family, the citizens of Israel, who since Wednesday have supported us with their concern, with warm and loving prayers for the well-being of my father," he told reporters outside the hospital. "In addition, I want to send our great appreciation and thanks to Hadassah Hospital, the medical team treating my father and his personal doctors who have been working day and night to treat the prime minister."

Rodriguez

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dental," Overstreet said.

Gutierrez said any information gathered has to be guarded until the investigation is finished.

"Once charges are filed and a case begins, then we will present the evidence," Gutierrez said. "It has continued to be a high priority."

"We are not sparing any resources. As Sheriff, I cannot begin to understand the emotional dev-

astation this family feels."

Gutierrez said he feels a heavy burden to find those who are missing.

He said so far they conducted nine searches and also probed countless square miles throughout large areas of Texas and some parts of New Mexico.

Gutierrez said the amount of people willing to volunteer has been extremely beneficial to the search.

"In one search alone we had over 500 volunteers," Gutierrez said.

Since Rogers went missing, the Sheriff's Office has received hundreds of tips, and it have investigated them all, Gutierrez said.

According to reports, Rogers disappeared from her bedroom after coming home from work.

Gutierrez said there was no sign

of a forcible entry, and all of her personal belongs, such as her purse and car keys, were still at the house.

The next day, her parents noticed her disappearance and immediately contacted the Sheriff's Department, according to reports.

Jennifer Wilkerson is another young woman who was reported missing. According to reports, Wilkerson has been missing since July 2004. Wilkerson was 25 at the time of her disappearance.

Overstreet said there is no connection between Wilkerson and Rodriguez at this time.

"Our investigators are doing a superb job," he said. "However, there is still a lot of work to be done in both cases."

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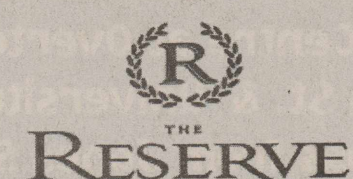
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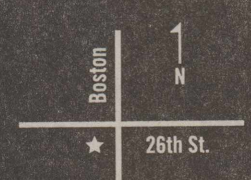
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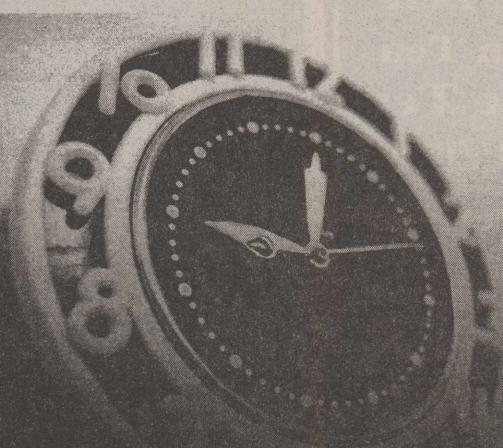
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she sees more iPod innovations coming in fashion.

"It's become more of a fashion icon," Bruse said. "People want iPods because they can personalize them."

Some of these innovations in fashion already can be seen.

If the mundane and basic clip-on holder that comes with all iPods does not seem like the perfect fit with someone's wardrobe, www.iLounge.com is now advertising two different styles of hip belts that come with an iPod pouch.

Sarah Benedict, a sophomore restaurant and hotel management major from Abilene, said the fashion statement with iPods is pointless.

"I think it's stupid how people put so much money into buying the accessories," she said.

Benedict might be against accessories such as the iTrip, which allows a person to listen to her iPod through a car radio, and all the colored skins out there, but she is not against the idea of having an MP3 player. She also understands the thought process behind Gucci and Fendi putting the iPod on runways.

"I think they are smart to take advantage and make more money on this," Benedict said.

It has always been a golden rule that a person must always match with their wardrobe, and newer

fashions are starting to follow that trend. Charity bracelets come in various shapes and colors so a woman can color coordinate her charitable cause with a blouse or skirt. Seeing this, it is only natural that companies start to roll out iPod Skins, which are rubber covers that come in colors ranging from camouflage to aloha blue.

On www.istyles.com, customers are able to find iPod skins for every type of player from the iPod mini to the current generation.

At the High Tech store on the Tech campus, Doug Brannon, a sophomore advertising major from Lubbock, said he sees an average of 15 to 20 people daily buy a skin for their iPod.

"The skins are protection, but it allows you to give your own expression," Brannon said. "The actual iPod is basically a black and white world."

At the store, skins for the iPod nano, Apple's smallest and latest revision to its MP3 player, come in packs of five with red, blue, clear, black and pink skins.

Kevin Graham, a junior accounting major from Oklahoma, said the iPod has become a fashionable asset.

"The iPod is the ultimate fashion statement," Graham said. "It says a lot about the person who owns it."

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Tech assistant football coach Brown dies of heart attack

By JOEY KIRK
EDITOR

Texas Tech secondary coach Dave Brown died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack.

Chris Cook, director of athletic media relations for Tech, said full details about the incident could not be provided Tuesday evening, pending further investigation.

"That's what has been described to me," he said. "I don't want to speculate at this time."

Brown has been an assistant at Tech under coach Mike Leach for the last five years. Prior to that, he served as an assistant for the Seattle Seahawks from 1992 to 1998.

Brown played college foot-

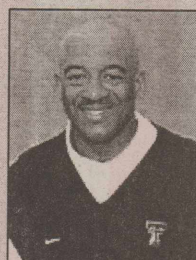
ball at the University of Michigan, where he was a two-time All American and was named to the school's All Century team. He received his bachelor's degree from the university in 1975.

Brown was a former NFL defensive back, playing 16 seasons professionally.

He began with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1975, participating in the Steelers' Super Bowl X win, before being drafted to an expansion team, the Seattle Seahawks, where he spent 11 seasons and was named All-Pro in 1984. It is in Seattle that he holds the all-time record for interceptions with 50.

Brown finished his career with the Green Bay Packers in 1990.

Brown is survived by his wife, Rhonda, and his two sons, Aaron and Sterling. *The Daily Toreador* will provide more information when it is received.



Brown

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STICK WITH IT



KELLY MATHERLY/The Daily Toreador

MEMBERS OF THE Texas Tech Lacrosse Club practice Monday afternoon at the sports study center field. Emo Stone passes off the ball while Matthew Berek attempts to stop him.

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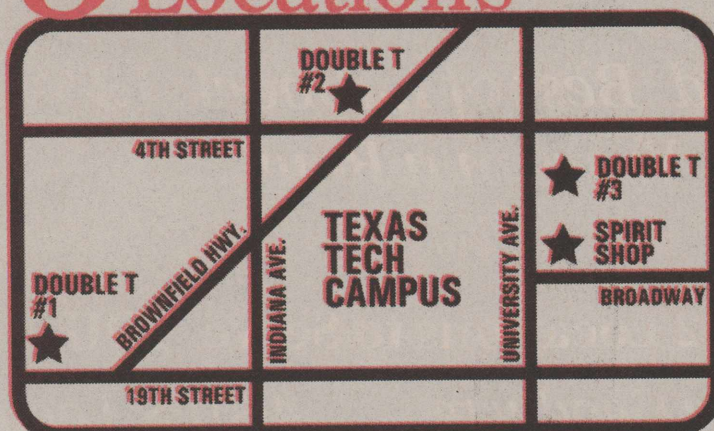
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Getting ginny with it: Local cotton harvested

By RUTH BRADLEY
FEATURES WRITER

The fields surrounding Lubbock have turned from white to brown. Piles of snowy fluff are packed together in intermittent stacks, towers of white amid the withering plants and dusty ground.

The advent of these piles of cotton, called modules, means that it is cotton-ginning season. And, following the best cotton production year this region can recall, it is going to last a little longer this year.

"There's so much cotton, it's going to take longer to gin it," said John Johnson, communications director for Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, an organization that markets ginned cotton.

"It's the biggest crop on record, and the previous record was set in 2004," he said. "So we've had consecutive records, not only for Texas but for the U.S."

Johnson said they are expecting about 5.5 million bales of cotton to be produced from this area.

"We're looking at a truly historical crop here," said Dean Ethridge, marketing director of the International Textile Center at Texas Tech. "The High Plains this year is producing as much cotton as historically the state of Texas has produced."

This is the second year in a row the High Plains farmers have broken production records. Ethridge said this crop has implications for the entire South Plains area and could affect the economy by as much as \$3 billion.

"The impact on the economy is very reliable, is very direct and occurs

almost from the beginning of harvesting," he said.

The harvesting process usually begins in September of each year, said Shawn Wade, director of communications for Plains Cotton Growers Inc. This follows four months of careful tending to young plants.

Most South Plains farmers plant their cotton in May and can expect to see blooms by July.

"That's when most of the work gets done," said Wade. "That's when you're making the crop."

Pests, storms and irrigation all have to be tended to regularly throughout the growing period. Finally, usually late in September, farmers will begin to prepare crops for harvest. For many farmers, this means using harvest aids, such as bowl openers or defoliants. About two weeks after aids are applied, crops are ready for harvest.

Farmers use machines called pickers, or strippers, to collect cotton to form modules. Each module is composed of about 5,000 pounds of cotton.

"That does two things," said Wade. "One, the modules are a lot easier to move ... (and) it protects the cotton."

Once the cotton has been harvested, the farmer's work is done, usually about late November. The modules will stand in a field, or in storage, until a gin removes it for processing.

The ginning process begins with the removal of dirt and leaves from the cotton. Next, the cotton fibers are separated from the seeds, which are often sold in secondary markets. The cotton now is ready to be packaged, and for the final step in production: quality testing.

Johnson said a sample is taken from each bail, and sent to the Department of Agriculture. These samples are tested for fiber length, strength, maturity and color, and a grade is assigned to each bail based on these tests.

"That grade goes on a system so that a buyer can compare the bails of cotton," said Johnson.

Johnson said Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, located in Lubbock, will handle about 50 percent of the Texas 2005 cotton crop and will sell to buyers all over the world.

Although many farmers use co-ops like this one to connect with buyers, others still prefer to do their own marketing.

"There's still a very active and vibrant independent community out there as well," Wade said.

Farmers are an important part of the South Plains and of Texas, he said. "It's a significant economic component of the Lubbock economy, and the whole High Plains area," he said.

Ethridge said cotton is the second largest money generator in the state of Texas, behind cattle.

"Cotton is the No. 1 cash crop for the state of Texas," he said. "This region is very sensitive to the cotton situation."

Ethridge said, with economic turnover, a good year for South Plains farmers could mean a good year for other South Plains businesses.

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Tech offers assistance for keeping resolutions, losing weight

By LAUREN SCOTT
FEATURES WRITER

New Year's resolutions of weight loss and exercise are more popular than ever. With new diet trends springing up around every corner, knowing the skinny on diet and exercise plans can make an impact on how much weight is lost or maintained.

The Atkins Diet started the low-carbohydrate diet craze. The diet offers low-carbohydrate, high fiber food choices instead of starchy foods such as pasta, rice and potatoes.

Then the South Beach Diet got popular. South Beach is similar to Atkins in that both diets are low-carb, however, South Beach allows more carbohydrates to be eaten. According to www.southbeach-diet-plan.com, the diet is a three-phase plan that slowly incorporates more carbohydrates as the diet progresses.

Mallory Boylan, an associate professor in nutrition, hospitality and retailing, said the diets will continue to be widespread.

"These diets will continue to be fairly popular," she said. "But it's different for every person to lose weight and to maintain the weight loss."

Boylan said the main thing to remember when trying to lose weight is exercise.

"The major implication in weight maintenance is to make sure the number of calories you take in is less than the number of calories you expend," she said.

Chrissy Huffman, fitness/wellness coordinator at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center, suggests using the FITT technique.

"FITT stands for frequency, intensity, type and time," she said. "I recommend cardio three to five times per week for 40 to 60 minutes. If you're walking, try to power walk or carry

weights."

She also recommends slowly working weights into a new workout routine.

"Two to three times per week with weights is enough," Huffman said. "Try putting just enough weight on to where you can do eight to 12 repetitions. Start out with just one set, then as you get stronger, do more repetitions."

Boylan suggests eating smaller portions throughout the day.

"Eating everything all at once is not as healthy as eating many times a day," she said. "Eat half of your food and get a doggy bag, or split a meal with someone."

She said there is one simple way to lose a pound per week.

"Eat 500 less calories a day, and you will lose a pound in a week," she said. "It's the small changes over a long period of time that will

have the biggest impact. Just stick with it."

She said cutting back 500 calories a day could be as simple as skipping a drink at a coffee shop or eating baked food instead of fried food.

Boylan said nutritional information is listed on many restaurants' Web sites, and by looking on the Internet before eating out can help with making healthy food choices.

"If the nutritional information is not given on the Web site, ask the manager for a nutrient analysis," she said. "And if you want dessert, fruit is a good choice. Or split the dessert with someone."

Huffman said the Rec Center is offering several specialty classes as well as drop-in classes.

"We have everything from shape-and-tone to cardio to hip-hop for our drop-in classes," she said. "Our specialty classes include yoga,

boxing and all kinds of dancing."

Huffman said specialty demo classes begin Wednesday and they are open to anyone who is a member.

"It's kind of like a try-it-before-you-buy-it type thing," she said.

Huffman also said a class called Ten Weeks to Health is offered that teaches the variety of ways to work out and educates about nutrition. She said the class is especially helpful to those who have never regularly worked out and those who are uncomfortable about working out in front of others.

"Ten Weeks to Health will change your attitude about working out and will help you maintain your New Year's resolution," Huffman said.

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HAZED & CONFUSED?

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All of the following are examples of hazing:

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Forced physical activity

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Calisthenics

Errands for active members

Introductions

Sleep deprivation

Forced labor

Did you know?

- In 2005, a men's social fraternity was suspended from Texas Tech University for multiple counts of hazing new members.
- In the last 5 years, 12 student organizations have been referred to Student Judicial Programs for hazing allegations.
- Anyone can be hazed, including active members.
- The entire organization is responsible even if alumni are the individuals who are hazing students.
- The activity does not need to include alcohol to be considered a hazing incident.

- Hazing is not limited to physical activity, but includes activities that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of a student.
- Failing to report hazing to Student Judicial Programs violates the *Code of Student Conduct*.
- Students and student organizations who commit hazing offenses are subject to legal action and/or prosecution.
- Students and student organizations are required to comply with the regulations and/or standards set forth in the *Student Handbook*, and are subject to university disciplinary action accordingly.

According to the *Code of Student Conduct* and the Texas Education Code, hazing is defined as follows:

Hazing is any intentional, knowing or reckless act, directed against a student by one person alone or by more than one person occurring on or off the premises that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purposes of associating with, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, seeking and/or maintaining membership in any organizations whose members are or include students.

Don't Be Confused: If you have to ask if it's hazing, then it probably is!

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Bushes concerned for youth

WASHINGTON (AP) — With drugs, gangs and other negative influences, young people face many more dangers than earlier generations did and often have fewer people to help them, Laura Bush said Tuesday.

The first lady said that families, schools and communities are three pillars of influence that can help disadvantaged youth become healthy and successful.

Mrs. Bush, along with Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, addressed about 2,000 attendees of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention conference, organized by the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, was designed to share best practices for helping at-risk youth.

The Bush administration is sup-

porting programs that help families, schools and the greater community provide the positive influences young people need in their lives, Mrs. Bush said.

"We want every child to be surrounded by caring adults who provide love, advice and encouragement, and who can serve as good role models," she said.

In his State of the Union address last January, President Bush introduced the Helping America's Youth initiative and said his wife would lead the effort.

On Tuesday, the first lady spoke of her national travels for the initiative. She said she observed after-school activities, parenting training and anti-gang programs that have helped children and young people.

She stressed the importance of families, especially the need for two parents, in a child's upbringing.

Checking book prices helps checkbooks

By **ABBY STONE**
FEATURES WRITER

Professors require students to buy textbooks for classes, but bookstores know there is a choice when it comes to where to purchase textbooks.

LeAnne Gibson, a first-year graduate student in communications studies, said the leading factor that pulls her to a bookstore is prices. She said she checks all of the bookstores for prices, but usually goes to Varsity Bookstore for her textbook needs.

Bob Davenport, store manager for the Varsity Bookstore, said many students choose Varsity as their textbook supplier.

He said Varsity does not compete with other bookstores for the lowest prices.

"We don't try to get into those types of games," Davenport said.

He said Varsity tries to keep prices as low as they can based on what it initially costs them to buy the textbook.

Allisyn McDonald, marketing director for Double T Bookstore, said the store guarantees the

lowest textbook prices and will match any other bookstore's offer.

"If (customers) came in and said Varsity is selling this for 60, we would sell it for 59," McDonald said.

Joanna Koli, general manager for the Texas Tech University Bookstore, said it doesn't give any discounts on textbooks, but a portion of every dollar spent at the bookstore goes back to Tech.

She said one reason students choose the campus bookstore is because of the convenience it offers being located in the Student Union Building.

Many of the bookstores in Lubbock allow students to pre-order books online or in the actual store to make the textbook buying process less painful.

This spring, the campus bookstore has had more than 500 students pre-order their books, Koli said. Students can reserve their books anytime and can pick them up 24 hours later.

Haron Lagat, a member of the Tech track and field team, said he buys his books at the campus bookstore because he is on scholarship. The human development of family studies major from

Eldoret, Kenya, said all student-athletes on scholarship buy their books at the campus bookstore.

Sheila Collins, an African American literature visiting professor, said some of her students who are on scholarship can only shop at the campus bookstore. Said she uses the campus bookstore so all of her students will have equal access to the text.

Collins said she turns to the Internet when it comes to buying books for herself, and suggests this option to her students the first day of class.

"I tend to buy my own books online so I can get them a lot cheaper," Collins said.

According to www.Amazon.com, you can save up to 50 percent on used textbooks.

Graduate student Gibson says she buys many of her books online from Amazon.com or Half.com because that is where she has the most luck.

Whether a student is looking for convenience, price or quality service, there is a bookstore out there ready to serve.

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Seth Green adds new sitcom to his many show-biz ventures

NEW YORK (AP) — For years, Seth Green has been popping up across the media horizon like Bugs Bunny from his countless rabbit holes. Here's a guy as hard for the audience to get a bead on as Bugs is for poor Elmer Fudd — and arguably he's no less inventive.

Right now Green's work is in the sights of TV viewers on no fewer than three shows.

On the animated "Family Guy" (Fox, Sunday at 9 p.m. EST), he furnishes the quavering whine of slothful teen Chris.

On "Robot Chicken" (Cartoon Network, Sunday at 11:30 p.m.), his handiwork is evident as a creator, producer, director, writer and voice artist on this kooky stop-motion-animated sketch-comedy series populated by dolls and action figures.

And on his new sitcom, "Four Kings" (NBC, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.), Green plays one of a quartet of twenty-something chums who cohabit a Manhattan apartment that serves as their zany halfway house between college and adulthood.

Green joins Josh Cooke (last year's sitcom "Committed"), Shane McRae ("One Life to Live") and Todd Grinnell ("The Dangling Conversation") as the titular "Four Kings," which premiered last week.

But for Green, who come February will turn a still-tender 32, these are just the latest credits in a quarter-century-long career.

Consider that at 10 he landed his first film assignment, in "Hotel New Hampshire" with Jodie Foster. He starred in Woody Allen's "Radio Days" as the boyhood version of the Woody-inspired character.

Other film roles include "Knockaround Guys," "Can't Hardly Wait" and all three "Austin Powers" comedies. On TV he was Oz, a sometime werewolf on "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer," and costarred with an ill-tempered puppet on the zany "Greg the Bunny."

Now on "Four Kings," the 5-foot-4 Green stands tall as irrepressible Barry, a loudmouth redhead given to boasts like, "Some lucky lady is gonna get herself a slice of Barry pie." (Which spurs the retort: "Really, more of a short bread.")

"I love it!" says Green, savoring the characters' give-and-take. "It's a lot of fun."

But then the old pro in him reclaims control: The specter of failure dogs every new project.

"I'm at a point in my career where I just don't take it personally," he says. "What's been harder to get my head around is the possibility that the show could be an enor-

mous hit. I have been transient, going from job to job, for a while." He laughs. "The possibility of the show being successful is more on my mind than it being a flop."

Growing up in Philadelphia, Green got the acting bug at age 6 while at a summer camp where his mother worked as arts instructor. Her campers were staging "Hello, Dolly!" and, at little Seth's urging, a part for him was plugged into the script:

"I run on stage and say, 'She's here, she's here! Dolly's here!' And I knew: This is what I wanted for my career. So I talked to my parents: 'What are we gonna do about it?'"

By good fortune, he soon landed an audition with a local talent agent. The next day he was dispatched to New York to audition for a commercial. He got it. He was 7.

"From the first, I loved the process: telling stories, being silly, being serious. Reading a script and making the character real."

But along the way, Green decided that vying for good roles wasn't the only way to get ahead.

"I realized how much of what I intend to do is my responsibility to make happen," he explains. "For instance, my partner, Matthew Senreich, and I shopped 'Robot Chicken' around for over three years, and I can't tell you

how many times we heard 'This is not for us,' before we got it to the Cartoon Network. There, we got to make exactly the show we wanted to make.

"I always wanted to get into writing, directing and producing by my 30s," he says proudly, "and this show is a great environment for me to test all my skills and develop them — in private." By which he means: His "Robot Chicken" action-figure stars make few demands, throw even fewer tantrums, and never squawk to the press about problems on the set.

With shooting wrapped on "Four Kings," Green is halfway through filming the second year of "Robot Chicken," which should be finished by the time his sitcom resumes production, should it win a pickup for next fall.

"I love having gotten this far and having nobody label me too specifically," he grins, "and without being the prey of the paparazzi. Nobody cares about my private life."

"In fact, people hanging out with me are safe, too. A friend who is a famous star went with me to a diner on Sunset at 2 in the morning, at the height of her being pursued by all the tabloids. The place was packed and we hung out. And there wasn't a word about it anywhere."

"I told her, 'Stick with me. You're bulletproof by association!'" Even at the height of Seth Green season.

Top 10 indie albums dropping in 2006

10. *Sleater Kinney* — "The Woods"

Following their blistering post-Sept. 11 album, "One Beat," these three women from Washington rock harder than ever with more innovation and imagination than most of the garage-band flunkies out there. A hybrid between a magnificent perversion of 70s rock and feel-good roller-rink Saturday nights.

9. *Gogol Bordello* — "Gypsy Punks: Underdog World Strike"

If history has shown us anything, it is that originality is dangerous. And by god, do I love that kind of risk. Gogol Bordello's latest album rockets into an orgy of fuming violin, stomp-worthy percussion and a searing vocal performance from Ukrainian immigrant Eugene Htz. It's just like the title says, folks. It's gypsy punk. Try not to break, steal or throw up on anything while listening.

8. *M.I.A.* — "Arular"

I think I may have been the only person in Lubbock to truly love this album. Regardless, M.I.A.'s English dancehall by way of Bollywood beats are the best you never heard last year. Next time you're at a party, spin "Arular." If asses shake harder and drinks are consumed faster, then you've got a good group. If people call for the return of Usher to the stereo, get new friends.

7. *Of Montreal* — "The Sunlandic Twins"

Seemingly innocent, whimsical, and at times very hypnotic, "The Sunlandic Twins" is the soundtrack to a childhood spent under the care of vaguely evil fairies that listen to a lot of indie-pop. Some songs are lilting and cheerful while others seem like you're driving on the surface of a dream. Always romantic, the album has a playfulness that makes you wish you could have stayed 11 years old forever.

6. *The Decemberists* — "Picaresque"

Often compared to Neutral Milk Hotel, The Decemberists came into its own with Picaresque, writing songs that document both the howls of sea captains long lost and the wails of every person who ever lost a spouse to war. This band is indie-rock's time traveler, bounding through the centuries like a kid whose most prized possession is his library card. If that kind of kid reminds you of yourself, this is the album for you.

5. *The Go! Team* — "Thunder Lightning Strike"

If cheerleaders were cool, the Go! Team would be their favorite band. A perfect mix of samples and original material makes this one of the most innovative and critically acclaimed releases of last year. This album is good music's quirky answer to the pep rally, capable of filling even the curmudgeonly of listeners with team spirit. It's just good to know our side finally has a pep squad.

4. *Amadou & Mariam* — "Dinanche à Bananko"

Truly great music can transcend the boundaries of language. While I can't decipher the French lyrics, this blind husband and wife duo from Mali nonetheless released one of the most inspiring and soulful albums of the year. Close your eyes and listen, and within seconds you'll be led to a sweaty bar somewhere in Africa, understanding nothing but loving everything, exotic and honest with every word.

3. *Bright Eyes* — "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning"

This album isn't music written by a 30-year-old trying to be 20 again or some high school kid struggling with his own existence. With "Wide Awake," Conner

Marcus Parks



Oberst was able to illustrate precisely what it means to be in your early 20s, angry and worried about both the state of the world and your own life. Like the best of protest music, Oberst has written powerful songs that will resonate long after their political relevance is in the history books.

2. *Clap Your Hands Say Yeah* — "SYT"

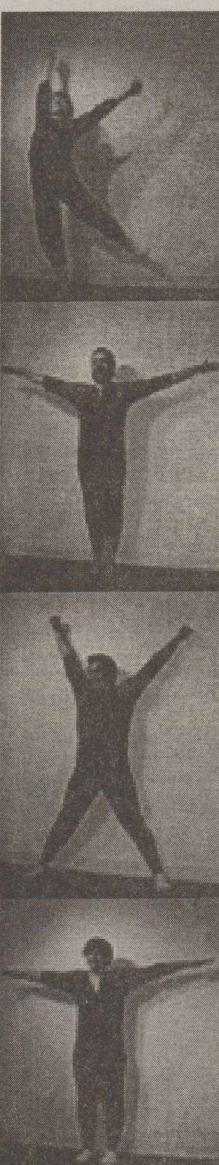
This year's breakout band and home to one of the most interesting voices in rock today, CYHSY has the intelligence of the Talking Heads, the audacity of Bowie, and most importantly, the potential to be among the few exciting groups of this decade. Their unique New York sound encompasses all the bands

you love without ever really sounding like any of them, seamlessly producing witty and stylish songs that still have great amounts of substance. Combine a carnie with a hipster and this is the album you'll get.

1. *Sufjan Stevens* — "Illinois"

Illinois is an album of triumphs and defeats. Every song is a victory for Stevens, a man on his way to becoming one of the greatest songwriters of our time. Jubilation juxtaposed with crippling sadness is a hallmark of "Illinois," but Stevens, even when comparing his own secrets to the bodies under John Wayne Gacy's floorboards, is always tender. He's only written two of the 50 albums he plans on recording about every state in the union, I have confidence that I will see that last album when I'm in the nursing home. And it will probably be on my Top 10 list that year, too.

■ Parks is one of *The DT's* music critics. E-mail him at Marcus.Parks@ttu.edu.



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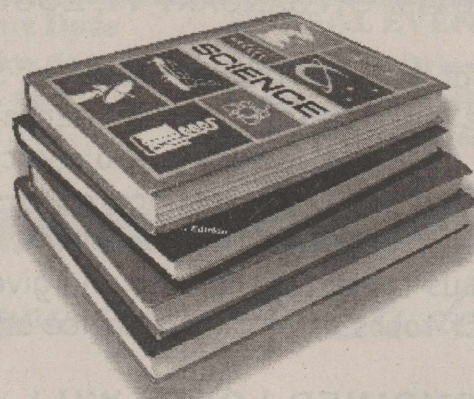
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Internet sparks 'Hostel' idea for violent horror film

Writer/director Eli Roth sits down to discuss how other film industry friends turned an idea into 'action!'

By JEREMY REYNOLDS
FEATURES WRITER

Writer/director Eli Roth came up with the idea for his first film "Cabin Fever" after getting a flesh-eating virus in Iceland and taking off half his face while shaving one morning. His second film comes from something darker.

Friend Harry Knowles, during a late-night conversation, turned Roth onto a Web site where he found the inspiration for what later would become the film "Hostel."

"We were talking about the sickest thing you could possibly find on the Internet," Roth said. And then they found it.

"Something that went beyond the usual bestiality, skateboarding accidents or even those two Japanese girls vomiting into each other's mouth in a bathtub."

Somewhere deep in the heart of Thailand was a business that thrived on society's fetish for fear and adrenaline. For a fee of \$10,000, anyone who was so willing could be escorted into a room, handed a loaded weapon and then given another human being to kill.

"It made me sick because it's true," Roth said. "Somewhere out there is someone so bored, and hookers and drugs just don't get them off anymore."

The Web site stated that the practice was legal because the victims participated at their own freewill. They were supposedly desolate, poverty-stricken people who had families starving to death. Sacrificing themselves was the

only way for them to make enough money to help their loved ones survive.

"The Web site made it sound as if the prospective killers were benefactors, like they were doing a service for the victims by way of this bizarre life insurance scheme," Roth said.

The Web site, along with an idea about backpackers being lost in a foreign land, stayed with Roth. He said shortly after "Cabin Fever" hit theaters, becoming the top-grossing film of the year for Lion's Gate Pictures, he began getting offers for other films.

"The stories were good, but the scripts sucked," Roth said.

One day, while chitchatting with fellow writer/director Quentin Tarantino, Roth gave him the idea about "Hostel" and he said the response from Mr. "Pulp Fiction" was immediate.

"He said that was the sickest (expletive) idea he'd ever heard and that I should start writing immediately," Roth said. "He said it could become the next American horror classic."

Roth dropped everything else on his plate and locked himself in a room and pounded out the script.

He switched the location from Thailand to Central Europe where he could have two backpackers hiking through the country, much like the start of "An American Werewolf in London."

Tarantino would later come onto the project as a producer to make the film a "Quentin Tarantino Presents" project.

"He was always on board, so for him to become executive producer was a natural thing," Roth said.

While filming the movie in Europe, Roth said he witnessed the differences between there and America.

"We were shooting in the Czech Republic, and we had to do this whole thing where a gang of kids trashed a car," Roth said. "In America, there are laws to consider, but over there we gave out 15 lead pipes and just let them go to work and we filmed it."

In Roth's first film, "Cabin Fever," he went with a 1970s horror-style directing. He said those

films always influenced him as a child, and he was so excited someone actually gave him a camera to shoot a movie that he wanted to pay tribute to so many people.

"For me, it's not about how many people go see the film opening weekend; it's about kids 30 years from now renting my movie on a Friday night and getting the shit scared out of them," Roth said.

After "Cabin Fever" Roth went on tour at horror festivals and watched films all day long. He said through experiencing the different filmmakers, he found a new style.

"I went with Asian shock horror for 'Hostel,'" Roth said. "This isn't a ghost in a well stuff, but actually violent Asian cinema."

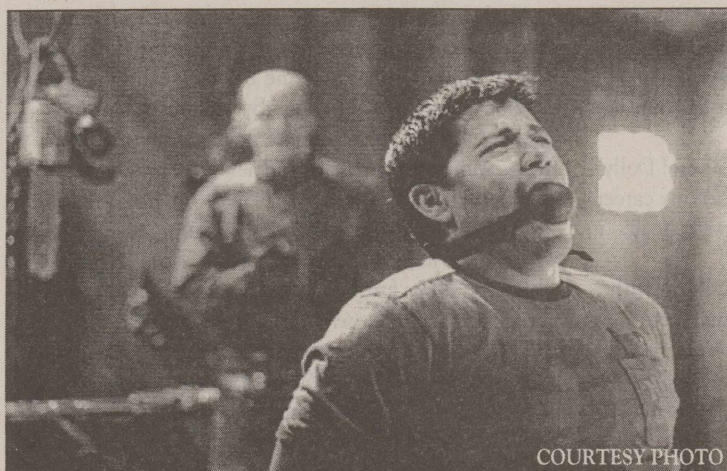
With a cast of Jay Hernandez ("Friday Night Lights") in the lead role and Czech Republic actors filling in everywhere else, Roth was ready to take his show on the road.

He shot the entire film on location, moving 30 times from the 16th century village Czesky Krumlov to a basement of a closed mental hospital built in 1915.

"It was pretty freaky filming in the hospital late at night," Roth said.

The film was released Friday, and topped the weekend box office grossing more than \$20 million.

► jeremy.n.reynolds@ttu.edu
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- Third party payments
- Waivers and Exemptions
- Work-Study and Part-Time employment

Winter Raider Welcome

Wednesday, Jan. 11
Red Raider Basketball vs. Baylor
7pm United Spirit Arena

Thursday, Jan. 12
Red Raider Nights Adventure "Mr. Gattis"
Sign up in the Center for Campus Life
Buses leave the Student Union at 6pm
Must bring TTU ID and ride the bus to receive free pizza.

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Sunday 12:00pm - 12:00am

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A quick pulse around the Rec Sports world...

Sports Clubs

Are you new to Tech? Or are you looking for something new to try? Why not look to one of our 28 Sport Clubs that are on campus. Membership to all Sport Clubs is open to any student enrolled in classes full time at Texas Tech. To see the list of Sport Club that are offered go to the Rec Sports website or contact Dee Pouzol @ 742-2945 for more details.

Double T Fencing Club will be hosting their annual Tech Open Fencing Competition January 21st and 22nd at the ESC (Men's Gym). For more info visit www.doublet-fencing.homestead.com.

Kuk Sool Won Club will be hosting a two day seminar at the Student Rec Center on January 21st and January 22nd. For more info contact David Swart at d.swart@ttu.edu or Dee Pouzol at 742-2945.

Personal Training

We have qualified, certified and enthusiastic personal trainers available to any Rec Center member. Hire a trainer for \$45 for 3 one-hour sessions or \$70 for 5 one-hour sessions.

Come to the Fitness/Wellness Center to sign up for a personal training package and get headed in a positive direction. For questions go online at recsports.ttu.edu or call 742-3828.

Swim Classes & More At The Aquatic Center

Visit the Aquatic Center to register for Spring Classes including:

- Adult Beginner
- Adult Intermediate
- Swim Fit
- Youth Learn to Swim
- Lifeguarding Classes
- Lifeguarding Challenges
- Lifeguard Instructor
- Water Safety Instructor

Dates/times at recsports.ttu.edu

FITNESS/WELLNESS

Spring Demo Class Schedule

Thinking about taking a Specialty Class? Demo classes offer you a chance to try out a class and see if you like it! All classes are free and last about 1 hour. Come early, space is limited.

KO Jam	Wed., Jan. 11	4:15 pm	121
Ballet	Wed., Jan. 11	5:30 pm	121
Yoga	Wed., Jan. 11	6:45 pm	121
Spin City	Thur., Jan. 12	5:30 pm	LLMP
Clogging/Tap	Thur., Jan. 12	6:45 pm	LLMP
Jazz Dance	Thur., Jan. 12	8 pm	121
Swing Dance	Fri., Jan. 13	4 pm	121
Salsa Dance	Fri., Jan. 13	5:30 pm	121
Yogilates	Sat., Jan. 14	2 pm	121
Boxing Techniques	Sun., Jan. 15	3:30 pm	121
Jump Rope	Mon., Jan. 16	4:15 pm	114
Mat Pilates	Mon., Jan. 16	6:45 pm	121
Country/West Dance	Tue., Jan. 17	4 pm	121
Flamenco	Tue., Jan. 17	6:45 pm	LLMP
Belly Dance	Tue., Jan. 17	8:30 pm	121

To register for a Specialty Class, just come by the Fitness/Wellness Center. Be sure to check out recsports.ttu.edu for class times and dates.

Free Drop-in Fitness classes are still going on - check the website or pick up a flyer at the Rec!

Fit/Well Can Assist With Resolutions

Numerous opportunities are available in the Fit/Well to support lifestyle changes. Check out all the free, drop-in fitness classes as well as try a demo Specialty class this week. Check your blood pressure, flexibility or body composition. Learn how the Food Processor or MyPyramid.com to assist with nutritional goals. Personal trainers are ready to set workouts and improve your techniques. Equipment Orientations are held every Tuesday in January at 5:30 pm. A Weight Watchers group meets on Mondays with weigh-in at 5:30 and class at 6:00 pm. And don't forget that massage can calm the mind as well as soothe aches and pains. For all the information log onto www.recports.ttu.edu.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS CENTER

Wilderness First Aid Offered

If you spend time outdoors for academic field trips/research or recreational activities such as outdoor adventure or hunting, you should be prepared for medical emergencies. A Wilderness First Aid course will be offered January 14-16 on campus. This is a fast-paced hands-on comprehensive 24 hour introductory course that costs \$195. For more info, contact the OPC at 742.2949.

Ski and Snowboard Rentals and Tuning

The Outdoor Pursuits has a great selection of skis, snowboards and ski blades equipped with boots and poles for rent. The OPC will also tune your skis. Call 742.2924 for pricing.


New Mexico Ski Trip FEB. 17-19

If you like snow sports, this is the trip for you. We will be going to a New Mexico ski resort to be determined based on the best snow conditions. This is a great opportunity to meet new people and spend the weekend out of town. Trip includes transportation, housing and a ski or snowboard rental.

SIGN-UP DEADLINE	DEPARTS	RETURNS	PRICE	SKILL LEVEL	FITNESS LEVEL
Feb. 9	2/17	2/19	\$110	beginner	moderate

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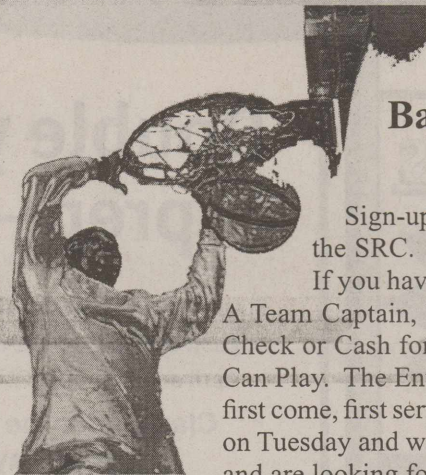
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INTRAMURALS

Court Is Back In Session

Basketball Registration

Tues. Jan. 17 - Thu. Jan. 19



Sign-ups for 5 on 5 Basketball start next week in Room 203 of the SRC. Men's, Women's and Co-Rec leagues will be provided. If you have your team already all you will need is: A Team Name, A Team Captain, The Social Security Numbers of Your Teammates, \$30 Check or Cash for the Forfeit Fee and A Knowledge of When Your Team Can Play. The Entry Form can be found at recsports.ttu.edu. Sign-ups are first come, first served so don't delay. The IM office will be open at 8:30 AM on Tuesday and will close each day at 5pm. P.S. If you do not have a team and are looking for one, The Free Agent Meeting is Jan. 18th at 4pm.

Basketball Officials Meeting Tuesday Night!

Tuesday, January 17th is your chance to part of one of the biggest events this spring has to offer. Over 3,000 students and 300 teams will compete in a grueling two-month season. Officials are paid \$8 per game. There are also paid clinics scheduled to assist perspective employees. The first clinic will be Tuesday, at 5:00 PM in room 201 of the Student Rec. Center. Officials who worked for us last year will have a separate meeting at 6pm on Tuesday the 17th. If you have any questions regarding employment feel free to call 742-2945.

Team Bowling

What: 4-person team bowling at Brunswick South Plains Bowl (off 69th)
When: Monday, January 23rd; Thursday, January 26th; or Sunday, January 29th. You choose one day for your team to play. Evening times.
Cost: \$20 per 4-person team and will include 3 games, shoes, and whole lot of fun.
Registration: please come to the Intramurals office. Don't delay because space is limited to the first 40 teams who sign up for this tournament.

Coming Soon!	INTRAMURALS	Entries Due	SPECIAL EVENTS	Event Date	SPECIAL EVENTS	Event Date
		Basketball Officials Mtg.	Jan. 17	Demo Classes Begin	Today- Jan. 17	Equipment Orientation
	Basketball	Jan. 17-19	Group Walking	Jan. 13	Fencing Competition	Jan. 21-22
	Team Bowling	Jan. 23	Wilderness First Aid	Jan. 14	TechWell Wellness Fair	Jan. 24
	Inner-Tube Water Polo	Jan. 31-Feb. 2	Group Running	Jan. 17	ALL-NIGHTER	Jan. 27



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Raiders still looking for rhythm Guards Coffman, Martin leave team

By MATT MUENCH
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

Although the Red Raider men's basketball team has struggled with inconsistency problems this season, Texas Tech forward Martin Zeno is not about to count the Red Raiders out of the postseason yet. He has more reasons than he can count on his hands — 15 to be exact.

"We still have a lot of games left to play," the sophomore said. "We have 15 more, and I feel like we can still turn it around. I have been disappointed with what we have done. But we are not far from where we want to be."

Tech's quest to fix its midseason problems begins at 7 p.m. today in the United Spirit Arena against Baylor. It will be a special game for the Bears because it will be the team's season opener. The program was not allowed to play non-conference games because of NCAA sanctions committed by Baylor's former coaching staff under Dave Bliss.

Baylor hasn't played a game in 306 days while the Raiders (8-7 overall, 0-1 Big 12) have played more games than any team in the conference.

But don't expect Zeno to say the Raiders have an advantage over the Bears.

It's visa-versa for him. "They have the advantage. We don't know anything about them," said Zeno, who is second on the team in scoring with 16 points per game. "They have a lot of information on us. They are going to be happy to be out there."

Tech center Darryl Dora agrees. "They have a lot of film on us. We don't have any on them," he said. "All we know about is their returning players. They are undefeated right now."

Like Tech, the Bears are loaded with freshman. They have six on the squad who returns all its starters from last season.

Baylor coach Scott Drew said during his weekly Big 12 teleconference that he hopes his players are not too nervous.

"There is only so much you can accomplish in practice. We accomplished all that," Drew said. "We made it through as a team, and still like each other. Hopefully we won't have first game jitters. Those front-row Texas Tech fans better keep their hands up. They might get hit by an errant pass."

The Raiders enter the game

reeling after blowing a nine-point halftime lead at Texas A&M before losing to the Aggies in both team's conference openers.

Their defense ranks 11th in the conference, Knight's worst during his five years at Tech, and the offense has only two players averaging more than seven points per game (Zeno and Jarrius Jackson).

"That was a tough loss," Dora said. "But we still gained a lot of confidence from the loss. We caught a lot of our mistakes on film and we, especially the younger guys are figuring out what we need to do."

One reason for Tech's losses, he said, is the Raiders' failure to stay on top when they are leading an opponent.

"We just have to keep the pace," he said. "From start to finish."

The gun has sounded. Can the Raiders maintain a pace to end up in the NCAA Tournament?

"I hope so," Zeno said. "Every game is crucial."

► matt.muench@ttu.edu
► trey.shipman@ttu.edu

GAME TONIGHT
TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS (8-7)
vs.
BAYLOR BEARS (0-0)
7 P.M., UNITED SPIRIT ARENA

By MATT MUENCH
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

Texas Tech lost two guards during the holiday break after junior Drew Coffman and freshman Terry Martin left the squad. Coffman quit after Tech's loss to Arkansas Dec. 21, and Martin turned his jersey in just before the Red Raiders' conference opener last week at Texas A&M. He was not on the bench during the loss at College Station.

Tech coach Bob Knight said in a statement both of the players' departures were "mutual agreements."

After the loss to the Aggies, Knight spoke about Martin's departure.

"We agreed that this is not the right program for him," Knight said. "We wish him the best wherever he goes."

Martin, the Louisiana product, played more than 10 minutes in a game three times out of 15 games this season.

According to Tuesday's *Monroe News Star*, Martin's hometown paper, he said he wanted to be closer to his parents.

"I didn't feel like I fit in the system like I should at the college level," he said. "I wanted to get closer to home. I didn't like being 10 hours away from my parents."

He said he might transfer to Univer-

sity of Louisiana-Monroe, where his dad played, or LSU.

"Right now, it's not about being at a big school," Martin said. "It's about being at a school close to home, doing what I do and playing how I play."

He said Knight, players nor coaches at Tech were the reason he left.

"Coach Knight didn't talk to me bad or anything," Martin said. "He was real nice to me."

The Louisiana native was expected to be a top player in Knight's program for four years. He started eight games this year, but struggled numerous times.

In his last four games, Martin had 18 turnovers and shot 8-for-32 from the field.

Tech men's basketball spokesman Randy Farley said he is unsure of the exact reason why Coffman left, but said Knight offered to keep him on scholarship until he graduated if he wanted to stay in Lubbock.

Farley said he is unsure what Coffman will do. Phone calls to Coffman were not returned.

Coffman came to Tech three years ago and received minimal playing time his first two seasons. He started four games this season and had a breakout game against Furman Nov. 23 when he

scored 22 points. But the Midland product has played more than 10 minutes in a game three times since.

Tech also lost a recruit from next year's class after Rockwall high forward Michael Godwin requested a release from the National Letter of Intent he signed last summer after the Tech coaching staff felt he could not develop into a Big 12 Conference basketball player.

Knight sent him a letter last week. "Your decision will have to be based on how much more effective you think you can be than you have shown thus far in the high school season," the letter stated. "If you feel you are playing at your best, I simply think it would be a mistake for you to come to Tech. However, the final decision is up to you and your folks and we will go along with whatever you decide."

According to the release, Tech coaches were not impressed with how Godwin had been playing this year. He was the fifth-highest scorer on the team, averaging five points per game.

Following the Godwin decision, Tech only has two recruits in next year's class.

► matt.muench@ttu.edu
► trey.shipman@ttu.edu

SIDE TRACK: POLE VAULT

This is first in an on-going series of stories on the lesser-known track and field events.

The pole vault is one of the oldest track and field events performed at Texas Tech. It started in 1934 when Coleman Cowen led the team with a jump of 12-2 1/2.

The pole vault is an event where athletes try to clear the highest possible crossbar using a vaulting pole. The basic concept is to convert horizontal energy from sprinting down a track into vertical energy by vaulting over the bar.

The length of the pole and the distance from which the athlete runs are dependant on many different factors including the height of the bar and the height of the athlete.

Tech has had six All-Americans in men's pole vault: Seth Harris, Bobby Most, Sage Thames, Tim James and Brit Pursely twice.

Most holds two of the top five jumps in school history including a jump of 18-1/2 at last year's Big 12 Championship. Thames is tied with Most for second on the all-time list reaching the 18-1/2 height at the 2004

NCAA Championships. Brit Pursely holds the school record with a jump of 18-1 in 1989.

Women's pole vault did not begin at Tech until 1999. This year's squad is led by Kelly Schulz who holds four of the top five jumps in school history, including a school record jump of 13-5 1/4 at the UTEP Invitational in 2005.

The next pole vault event will take place as part of the Wes Kittley All Corners event Saturday in Lubbock.

—Jay Langley/Sports Writer

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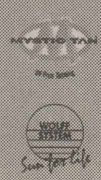
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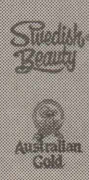
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